System and Method of Sharing a Contact List Among Mobile Phones

Abstract

A method of sending mobile phone contact list data from one mobile phone using a mobile phone messaging service to other mobile is disclosed. The sender composes an SMS or MMS message that will have contact data from his phonebook attached. Once the message has been composed it is sent using a messaging service like SMS or MMS to other mobiles in a group. The message is received in the other mobile phones. Before acting on the message, a check is determined to see if the message contains contact list data. If it does not, the message is processed as it normally would be by the mobile phone. If the message does contain contact list data, however, a software program is launched to manage the received contact list data. The program displays the received mobile phone contact list data so that the mobile phone user can examine the data. An import function is run to resolve conflicts, store and overwrite data into the mobile phone's contact database based on the newly received contact list data. Alternatively, mobile phone contact list data is uploaded from a mobile

phone to a computer server residing on a digital cellular network (DCN). The mobile phone user selects one or more contacts on the mobile phone to be uploaded to the computer server. A connection is established between the mobile phone and the computer server. The contact list data from the mobile phone is uploaded to the computer server and stored for later retrieval. To retrieve the uploaded contact list data, a mobile phone establishes a connection with the computer server and, upon proper authentication, is given permission to download the contact list data from the computer server to the mobile phone. Once the contact list data has been downloaded to the mobile phone, a software program is launched to manage the new contact list data including previewing and storing the data on the mobile phone.